to non increase in the retail selling price of domestic LPG from May 2002 onwards have not been assessed as yet.

Marketing rights to foreign oil investors

†2195. SHRI RAMADHAR KASHYAP: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of private and foreign companies who have agreed to invest in the field of oil exploration in exchange of marketing rights;

(b) the increase in oil production likely to occur due to this;

(c) whether Government propose to give marketing rights to private and foreign companies in case they invest in oil exploration and refining;

(d) if so, the number of companies which responded in this regard; and

(e) by when final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Government have not received any such proposal from private/foreign companies.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government have laid down the guidelines vide its resolution dated 8th March, 2002 for granting of authorisation to market transportation fuels to the new entrants. These guidelines, *inter-alia*, stipulate the condition of investment of Rs. 2,000 crore in eligible activities including oil exploration and refinery.

(d) and (e) Government have received the requests for granting of authorization to market transportation fuels from Reliance Petroleum Limited (RPL), Essar Oil Limited (EOL) and Nagarjuna Oil Corporation Limited (NOCL) and permission in favour of RPL and EOL has been granted as they were found eligible as per the laid down guidelines of the Government.

Disparity among LPG/SKO dealers in Delhi

2196. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(a) whether a number of LPG agencies and SKO dealers in Delhi are having different refill sale and allocation;

(b) if so, whether new SKO dealers are given less allocation in respect to old dealers and if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the reasons for not bringing all the LPG dealers/SKO dealers at par and make equal allocation to SKO dealers; and

(d) the details of plans to make such SKO dealers at par with other old dealers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The SKO allocation to the dealers depends upon the area of distribution, the attachment of retailers made by Civil Supplies Authorities in addition to historical allocation.

(c) and (d) It is not always possible to bring at par all the LPG/SKO dealers in a given market. However, Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) try to ensure that all such dealers operate at minimum economic viable level by restructuring the markets in respect of LPG distributors and SKO allocation among dealers.

Rise in crude oil import

2197. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's crude oil production has recently recorded a steep rise and if so, to what extent;

(b) whether ONGC's Gujarat oil fields recorded highest output recently and whether Government expect this trend to continue for more years to come;

(c) whether the overall trend indicates larger volumes of crude oil imports every year and whether against a crude oil import of 40 million tonnes in 1998-99, the imports rose to 76 million tonnes in 2000-2001; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?